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McCarthy Calls for Probe Of Army's Project Camelot

By WALTER PINCUS
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Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., today asked for a Senate Foreign Relations Committee study of "Project Camelot" — the Army-sponsored multi-million-dollar research program aimed at analyzing potential insurgent groups in developing nations.

The report of a Camelot researcher in Chile caused a public flareup in that country and a private flareup in the State Department. The U.S. ambassador to Chile, Ralph Dungan, protested the Army-financed inquiry that was begun in the country without his knowledge.

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill, the House Appropriations Committee plans a full-scale inquiry into the Defense Department's spending on behavioral science and social studies projects, of

which Camelot is just one. The committee found that the Defense Department planned to spend \$22.9 million on such inquiries in the coming fiscal year, and cut that figure back to \$20 million.

Trivial Matters Considered

"Some of the areas of study being pursued in behavioral sciences" the committee report stated, "appear not to offer any real promise of providing useful information. Other studies appear to be concerned with trivial matters on which intelligent people should not require studies in order to be informed."

McCarthy, in his letter to Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., said he was "concerned with the extent and consequences of the report in The Sunday Star that there is a growing conflict between the State Department and the Pentagon" stemming from the Chile-Camelot episode.

Citing testimony by the Army before a House Appropriations subcommittee, McCarthy said there appeared to be no coordination or even familiarity by State Department officials with Camelot. McCarthy concluded that this indicated the Army "has intruded itself into the field of foreign policy without authority."

"Beyond that," McCarthy said, "(the Army) appears to have failed to maintain any advisory relationship with the department of State, which properly has the role of implementing United States foreign policy."

Official Silence

For two days, the Special Operations Research Office (SORO) of the American University — contractor for Camelot — and the Department of Defense have maintained an official silence on the Chile episode and Camelot — though the

latter is an unclassified project. The silence has been so deep that neither would even provide a description of what SORO is, and what other work it has done.

It has been learned, however, that a letter has been sent to a Venezuelan academician asking him to take part in a study of insurgent potential in that country as part of the general Camelot program. A similar letter went out in April to a Chilean.

Asked about inclusion of Venezuela in the project, an Army officer associated with Camelot would only confirm that with regard to foreign inquiries, "we are coordinating with the State Department now."

The Army's failure to inform the State Department about the Chile research was one facet of the diplomats' growing concern over the Pentagon's rapid entry into the field of foreign policy studies.

A State Department spokesman confirmed this new cooperation in a statement that said, "It must be apparent that any research done abroad would be undertaken with the knowledge and consent of the host countries."

In a cable last Wednesday, Ambassador Dungan reported that the Chilean Government was undertaking an investigation of Camelot and he, Dungan, still desired to know who the SORO researcher had contacted in Chile.

According to material presented by the Defense Department to a House Appropriations subcommittee, SORO was scheduled to receive about \$3 million in the next fiscal year, with about \$1 million of that earmarked for Camelot. The House committee's cut of \$500,000 in the Camelot portion of the Army's \$1.4 billion research budget may lower this somewhat.